

Agenda Item # 51

**DISTRIBUTION**

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STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
                                  ) SS  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

COUNTY BOARD, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ADJOURNED REGULAR SEPTEMBER, A.D., 2007 SESSION

DECEMBER 11, A.D., 2007

MADAM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD:

Your Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee presents herewith a Resolution presenting and requesting approval of the FFY 2009 Lake County Federal Legislative Program, and requests its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn Spielman  
CHAIRMAN

[Signature]  
VICE CHAIRMAN

Anne Flanigan Bosi

Theresa Douglas

Michael A. Catlett

[Signature]

Aye

Nay

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## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, your Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee has worked to prepare a Lake County Federal Legislative Program for United States Fiscal Year 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed FY 2009 Lake County Federal Legislative Program encompasses a variety of recommendations designed to upgrade the efficiency and effectiveness of county government, improvement the environment of Lake County, enhance criminal justice information flow in Lake County, and improve transportation in Lake County; and

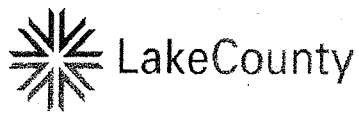
**WHEREAS**, your Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee seeks your approval of the FY 2009 Lake County Federal Legislative Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by this County Board of Lake County, Illinois, that the FFY 2009 Lake County Federal Legislative Program is hereby approved, a copy of which program is attached hereto and made part hereof; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this County Board does hereby approve and support those efforts necessary to draft, introduce, and support legislation designed to implement the objectives of this program, with those efforts to be executed by the County Administrator in coordination with the County Board Chairman and the Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee Chair; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that because of the unique and often unpredictable timing by which actions occur in Congress, the County Administrator - in coordination with the County Board Chairman and the Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee Chair - is hereby authorized and directed to take all appropriate actions regarding other legislative proposals that may impact Lake County government.

DATED at WAUKEGAN, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D., 2007.



## LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS Federal Legislative Program for FFY2009

As a local government, Lake County depends on both the state and federal government for authority and financial assistance to carry out its responsibilities and to effectively meet the needs of approximately 700,000 county residents.

Lake County's *Federal Legislative Program for the FFY 2009* includes recommendations on a variety of federal issues that are of significant importance at the local level. Issues are grouped by the following three categories.

- **Sponsored Initiatives** will be the primary focus of the County's legislative efforts in the coming year. Lake County will seek Congressional assistance to pursue these issues and take action when appropriate.
- **Supported Initiatives** include projects likely sponsored by other associations or agencies that are strongly supported by Lake County.
- **Monitor Statements** note Lake County's intention to evaluate some significant national issues that are of local interest, while not formally taking a position.

The success of this legislative program relies on the assistance of the Lake County Congressional delegation. The strong working relationship between the County Board and the County's Representatives and Senators is highly valued and Board Members look forward to working closely with the delegation during the coming year.

## SPONSORED INITIATIVES

**TOPIC:** **Integrated Justice**

**ISSUE:** Over the past five (5) years, Lake County has led a significant effort involving county and local criminal justice agencies in the development of an integrated justice information system. As a result of this coordinated work, Lake County is well on its way to establishing an integrated justice information system that will integrate information from several departmental systems that currently exist, or are in varying states of implementation, on different hardware and software platforms. The work ultimately will help to improve public and officer safety.

**BACKGROUND:** Law enforcement and criminal justice activities at all levels of government will benefit from the successful implementation of the integrated system. Information sharing and immediate access is of particular importance, particularly for personnel responsible for immigration enforcement, gang-related activities (Lake County Gang Task Force), drug enforcement, joint law enforcement agency activities (MEG) and homeland security.

The primary objectives for the development of the integrated information system include: eliminating duplicate data entry, providing access to information that is not otherwise available, and the timely sharing of critical data. Specifically, implementation of the integrated system will provide law enforcement and criminal justice personnel with the ability to access real time information from all county data sources including: arrests, warrants, previous criminal history, jail, sentencing, parole and more. This information will include any activity that has occurred and has been recorded by any of the county law enforcement or justice departments as well as any participating local police agency regardless of the jurisdiction.

Through 2006, the County has received \$546,000 in federal support for this project and invested \$5.2 million in County funds and thousands of man-hours on planning and implementing the integrated justice system. Funding is necessary over the next several years to continue the integration process for the County's criminal justice departments and the municipal police computer networks in Lake County.

In 2008, Lake County will accomplish the following:

- Complete a case management systems for the Public Defender's Office;
- Continue to implement information exchanges between justice agencies;
- Implement an upgrade to the Prosecutor Case Management System;
- Upgrade the CRIMS system;
- Implement network infrastructure upgrades to assist with process to integrate outside agencies into the Lake County Integrated Justice Network;
- Implement digital signature software as part of work developing information exchanges between justice agencies;
- Acquire database and application adapters needed for integration with Public Defender, Court Administrator and other justice agencies; and
- Continue work implementing a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system for the Jail and Records phases of the system.

Additional federal assistance is needed to complete the systems and realize all of its benefits. Future federal assistance will enable the County to further integrate its justice information systems along with acquiring new information management systems.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Request \$5 million to assist with the implementation of a multi-year technology plan to integrate the computer networks of all of the police departments in Lake County with each of the County's criminal justice departments and to provide a universal interface with the State of Illinois.

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**TOPIC:**

**Countywide Wetland Preservation and Restoration Plan**

**ISSUE:**

Although Lake County has a comprehensive wetland inventory dating to 1992, we lack a countywide plan identifying wetlands needing preservation and/or restoration as a way to reduce flood damages, improve water quality, and protect high quality natural resources. We need to preserve and restore our remaining wetland resources since the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission projects a 63% increase in population in the Des Plaines River watershed from 1990 to 2030, a 68% increase in households, and a 102% increase in employment. Overall, Lake County has lost over 42% (38,000 acres) of its wetlands since settlement. The new development pressure has the potential to exacerbate flooding, degrade water quality, and negatively impact wetland resources.

**BACKGROUND:**

The 2002 Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan ("Comp. Plan"), the Stormwater Management Commission's guiding document, recommended a countywide plan identifying wetland preservation and restoration projects. Wetlands are a critical component of the county's green infrastructure that stores runoff as part of the natural drainage system. The Comp. Plan authors envisioned a multi-objective approach to meet flood damage reduction goals by preserving key wetlands from development and restoring the natural flood storage and water quality treatment functions of those preserved wetlands.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Lake County requests \$200,000 in the FY 2008 Interior appropriations bill, EPA, Environmental Programs and Management (EPM) account to prepare a countywide plan that will identify key wetlands to preserve and restore as a multi-objective method to reduce flood damages, improve water quality, and protect high quality natural resources.

The first step towards addressing the problem is to prepare a countywide Wetland Preservation and Restoration Plan. We seek to determine the highest quality wetlands to preserve and, for wetlands that are already preserved through conservation easements or deed restrictions, the best ones to restore as a multi-objective method to reduce flood damages and improve water quality. We expect the plan promulgation process will: (1) examine the County's remaining wetland resources and their potential flood damage reduction, water quality functions, and natural resource value, (2) use County database information to identify areas that continue to experience flood damages, (3) identify those wetlands that should be preserved or restored, and (4) develop a prioritized list of these resources that can be used by SMC, other agencies, and local groups to implement projects.

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**TOPIC:****Slocum Watershed Management Plan****ISSUE:**

Critical components of the infrastructure are failing, especially the outlet drainage way for this whole watershed. Technical services and cost share funding for the local governments is needed to achieve a coordinated, prioritized and systematic approach to benefit the whole watershed.

**BACKGROUND:**

Of our 26 sub-watersheds this is our highest priority unfunded watershed plan due to the extent of current problems on an already inadequate infrastructure system and the projected growth that will generate an even heavier demand. Stakeholders (and contributors)

involved in the planning process include the County, Lake County Forest Preserve District, Slocum Drainage District, Wauconda (Village and Township), Island Lake, Port Barrington, Lake Barrington and the Slocum Lake Management Association.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Lake County requests \$310,000 in the FY 2008 Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Conservation Operations account for Planning and Engineering and Implementation funding to effectively rehabilitate and modify the existing drainage infrastructure system throughout this sub-watershed. This proposal addresses the long-term goals and service needs of the County and is a logical first step in responding to the projected growth in demand for services and infrastructure functions. It strives to meet the County Board Goals of Planned, Balanced Growth through Effective Stormwater Management and Natural Resource Protection and Enhancement. A relatively small investment in this proposed project would result in large returns, including access to federal and state grants and the efficient utilization and coordination of other public funds. If funded, local governments in the watershed will be asked to contribute a total of \$207,000 in matching cash and in-kind services.

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**TOPIC:**

**Watershed Plan Implementation Projects**

**ISSUE:**

Seven watersheds have experienced flood damage along with degraded water quality and habitat due to urbanization and agricultural activity. Development pressure is increasing in all seven watersheds with potential to exacerbate the current flooding, water quality, and other problems in each watershed while also negatively impacting natural resources. The watersheds include:

- Squaw Creek Watershed (Fox River),
- Sequoit Creek Watershed (Fox River),
- Fish Lake Drain Watershed (Fox River),
- Indian Creek Watershed (Des Plaines River),
- Bull Creek (Des Plaines River),
- Newport Creek (Des Plaines River), and
- Upper Des Plaines River Watershed.

**BACKGROUND:**

State and local funding exceeding \$2 million is currently being or has already been spent on planning and projects in these watersheds. The requested funding will allow Lake County to build on momentum from the watershed planning process and galvanize interest from stakeholders to undertake watershed improvement projects leading to the long term improvement of

these watersheds. For additional information pertaining to individual projects, please see the attached Fact Sheets.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Lake County requests \$2 million in the FY 2008 Interior appropriations bill, EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account, to implement high priority environmental restoration, ecological enhancement, water quality improvement, and stormwater infrastructure projects identified in detailed, comprehensive watershed management plans for the Upper Des Plaines and Fox River watersheds. Comprehensive watershed plans have been completed for Squaw Creek, Sequoit Creek, Fish Lake Drain and Indian Creek. Plans are nearing completion for Bull Creek and Newport Creek. These plans include:

- Identification of flooding problems, a water quality assessment, and natural resource inventory;
- Locally supported, site-specific action plan that identifies in-the-ground solutions to remedy current watershed problems; and
- Programmatic recommendations that can be applied throughout the watershed to prevent future problems from occurring.

Current watershed management plans identify site-specific structural and non-structural solutions and eco-system restoration projects to remedy existing degradation. These projects will improve water quality and habitat while enhancing stormwater management and infrastructure for each of the above listed watersheds. Lake County requests federal funds to implement the highest priority projects recommendations in each of the watersheds.

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**SUPPORTED INITIATIVES**

**TOPIC:**

**Community Development Block Grant Funding**

**ISSUE:**

Continued strong support is needed for continued or increased housing and community development program funding, and in particular maintaining the following programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Supportive Housing Program (SHP) programs in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. A wide spectrum of support has worked to preserve and enhance these programs, including the US Conference of Mayors (USCM), the National League of Cities (NLC), the National Association of



Counties (NACo), the National Association of County and Community Economic Development (NACCED), the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), and the National Community Development Association (NCDA).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Support efforts to maintain or increase housing and community development funding provided through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Supportive Housing Program (SHP) programs.

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### MONITOR STATEMENTS

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**TOPIC:** Strategic Objectives for Federal Transportation Funding

**ISSUE:** The current Federal Transportation Bill, SAFETEA-LU expires in October 2009. The county has successfully made use of federal funds in its highway improvement program. Reauthorization of the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety and transit will impact a number of important programs for Lake County that help fund local highway improvements.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Lake County's ability, by itself, to affect the final federal bill is minimal. Thus, the county must be part of larger groups that will weigh in on the bill process; e.g. the Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC). Lake County should concentrate on five areas:

- Solvency of the trust fund and size of the program
  - The revenues flowing into the trust fund will not be sufficient to maintain the size of the federal transportation program.
  - The County needs to receive more federal funds than currently received.
- Funding for the formulae programs
  - The county needs to work towards a sufficient amount being allocated in the bill to the existing federal programs that the county taps into:
    - Surface Transportation Program-Urban
    - Surface Transportation Program-Rural
    - Surface Transportation Program-Enhancements
    - Highway Bridge Program
    - Congestion Mitigation for Air Quality Program.

- Scope of federal programs
  - The county needs to monitor the eligibility of county transportation work in both the existing and any new federal programs.
- Local federal funding project streamlining.
  - The processing time for federal projects needs to be addressed.
- High Priority earmarks for Lake County
  - The County should again request of its US House Representatives the earmarking of dollars towards specific federally funded projects. In particular, the current status of the ILL Rte 120 project should be evaluated for readiness for Phase I federal funding.

## ATTACHMENT

### **FACT SHEET #1: Squaw Creek Watershed Project**

**Request:** Lake County requests funding to implement high priority environmental, ecological restoration, and stormwater management projects identified in the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Plan.

**Problem:** A large quantity of flooding problems exists in the 38-square mile Squaw Creek Watershed:

- 700 buildings (estimated) are subject to flooding;
- 4 critical facilities subject to closure from flooding or loss of access;
- 41 roads or bridges closed or threatened by flooding; and
- 2 repetitive loss properties, at different flooding locations.

The lakes of the watershed and Squaw Creek have experienced degraded water quality and increased erosion due to agricultural activity and urbanization. Development pressure is increasing in the Squaw Creek watershed. The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission projects a 48% increase in population in the watershed from 2000 to 2020, a 49% increase in households, and a 66% increase in employment. This new development has the potential to exacerbate the current flooding, water quality, and other problems in the watershed while also negatively impacting natural resources including wetlands and open areas. The Watershed Management Plan has identified over 100 high priority projects.

**Proposed Solution:** The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) completed and adopted a watershed plan for the Squaw Creek watershed. The watershed management plan includes:

- 1) An accurate identification of floodplain boundaries and a water quality and natural resource assessment;
- 2) A locally supported action plan that identifies specific structural and non-structural solutions to remedy current problems; and
- 3) Programmatic recommendations to prevent future problems.

Residents, landowners, business owners, and local governmental officials regularly participate in monthly planning meetings to implement projects and problems addressed in the Watershed Management Plan. The Squaw Creek watershed stakeholders are addressing options to remedy current problems and prevent future flood damage, degradation of water resources and habitat as urbanization continues. The SMC and the Lake County Board officially adopted the Squaw Creek Watershed Plan in 2004. **Funding of high priority projects identified in the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Plan will provide a reduction in flood damages and improvement of the water quality.**

**Background:** The Squaw Creek Watershed Plan was funded by a diverse funding package assembled by SMC. The SMC allocated \$201,000 and more than \$100,000 worth of in-kind services to the project. The Illinois Department of Transportation contributed \$168,000 to the floodplain study effort. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contributed \$140,000 on the CAP 206 feasibility study and reconnaissance report for the watershed. To date, \$609,000 has been spent on this project.

**Congressional District:** District 8: Congressman Melissa Bean

## **FACT SHEET #2: Sequoit Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Project**

**Request:** Lake County requests funding to implement high priority environmental, ecological restoration, and stormwater management projects identified in the Sequoit Creek Watershed Management Plan.

**Problem:** Approximately 80 buildings and 5 roads or bridges are threatened by repeated flooding. The watershed contains the highest quality lakes in Lake County. The lakes of the watershed and Sequoit Creek have experienced degraded water quality and increased erosion due to agricultural activity and urbanization. Development pressure is increasing in the Sequoit Creek watershed. The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission projects a 37% increase in population in the watershed from 2000 to 2020, a 34% increase in households, and a 16% increase in employment. This new development has the potential to exacerbate the current flooding, water quality and other problems in the watershed while also negatively impacting natural resources including wetlands and open areas. The Watershed Management Plan has identified 64 high priority projects.

**Proposed Solution:** The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) completed and adopted a watershed plan for the Sequoit Creek watershed. The watershed plan includes:

- 1) An accurate identification of floodplain boundaries and a water quality and natural resource assessment;
- 2) A locally supported action plan that identifies specific structural and non-structural solutions to remedy current problems; and
- 3) Programmatic recommendations to prevent future problems.

Residents, landowners, business owners, and local governmental officials have participated in planning meetings to identify problem areas in the watershed and to prioritize potential projects to address them.

Several high priority projects include streambank stabilizations at Reach 23 of Sequoit Creek; streambank stabilization along the west shore of Cedar Lake; streambank stabilization along Little Silver Lake; stabilization of the Windmill Creek detention basin outlet; and restoration of degraded wetlands around Cedar Lake and Sun Lake. These projects will enhance water quality by reducing erosion and sedimentation, improve habitat, and help the non-structural components of Lake County's stormwater infrastructure perform better. The SMC and the Lake County Board officially adopted the Sequoit Creek Watershed Plan in 2004.

**Background:** The Sequoit Creek Watershed Plan was funded by a diverse funding package assembled by SMC. The County of Lake allocated \$115,000 toward the project while Illinois First funds from State Senator Geo-Karis paid for \$80,000 of the planning effort. The SMC funded more than \$10,000 towards the cost of the planning project and more than \$60,000 worth of in-kind services such as project coordination and management, consultant contract administration, stakeholder input coordination, and staff input on plan development. The total state and local funding to date is \$265,000. Initial plan implementation is being supported by an Ecosystem Restoration 206 grant via the US Army Corps of Engineers in the amount of \$200,000.

**Congressional District:** District 8: Representative Melissa Bean

### **FACT SHEET #3: Fish Lake Drain Watershed Plan Implementation Project**

**Request:** Lake County requests funding to implement high priority environmental, ecological restoration, and stormwater management projects identified in the Fish Lake Drain Watershed Management Plan.

**Problem:** The lakes and the primary riverine system (the Fish Lake Drain) in the 9-square mile Fish Lake Drain watershed have experienced degraded water quality and increased erosion due to agricultural activity and urbanization. All of the lakes within the watershed suffer from nutrient enrichment and reduced water clarity. Development pressure is increasing in the Fish Lake Drain watershed. The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission projects a 56% increase in population in the watershed from 2000 to 2020, a 51% increase in households, and a 39% increase in employment. This new development has the potential to exacerbate the current flooding, water quality, and other problems in the watershed while also negatively impacting natural resources including wetlands and open areas. The Watershed Management Plan has identified 53 high priority projects.

**Proposed Solution:** The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) completed and adopted a watershed plan for the Fish Lake Drain watershed. The watershed management plan includes:

- 1) An accurate identification of floodplain boundaries and a water quality and natural resource assessment;
- 2) A locally supported action plan that identifies specific structural and non-structural solutions to remedy current problems; and
- 3) Programmatic recommendations to prevent future problems.

Residents, landowners, business owners, and local governmental officials have been regularly participating in planning meetings to implement projects complementing the goals stated in the Watershed Management Plan. The plan identifies measures to remedy current problems and prevent future flood damage, degradation of water resources and habitat as urbanization continues. The SMC and the Lake County Board officially adopted the Fish Lake Drain Watershed Plan in 2004. **Funding of high priority projects identified in the Fish Lake Drain Watershed Management Plan will provide a reduction in future flood damages and improve habitat and water quality.**

**Background:** The Fish Lake Drain Watershed Plan was funded by a diverse funding package assembled by SMC. The SMC allocated \$100,000 and more than \$50,000 worth of in-kind services to the project. The County of Lake contributed \$65,000 of funding to the floodplain study effort. The Village of Volo contributed over \$45,000 of funding to the project. The local funding to date totals more than \$260,000.

**Congressional District:** District 8: Representative Melissa Bean

#### **FACT SHEET #4: Indian Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Project**

**Request:** Lake County requests funding to implement high priority watershed restoration and protection projects identified in the Indian Creek Watershed Management Plan. In-the-ground projects will help advance the Indian Creek watershed goals of water quality improvement, flood damage reduction and natural resource protection and enhancement.

**Problem:** SMC completed a Flood Problem Areas Inventory of Lake County in 1996. At that time, 15 flood problems areas, half of which were located in mapped floodplains, were identified in the Indian Creek watershed. Water quality in the Indian Creek watershed is degraded due to development and other stresses and development pressure is continuing in the watershed. This new development has the potential to exacerbate the flooding, water quality and other problems while also negatively impacting the natural resources in the watershed. Consequently, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC), in partnership with the nonprofit Indian Creek Watershed Project Ltd., developed a watershed plan for the Indian Creek watershed.

**Proposed Solution:** SMC completed and adopted a watershed plan for Indian Creek that includes:

- 1) An identification of flooding problems, a water quality assessment and a natural resources inventory;
- 2) A locally supported site-specific action plan that identifies on-the-ground solutions to remedy current watershed problems; and
- 3) Programmatic recommendations that can be applied throughout the watershed to prevent future problems from occurring.

Residents, landowners, business owners and local government officials (both staff and elected) have participated in monthly watershed-wide meetings to identify problem areas in the watershed and to prioritize potential projects to address the problems. Indian Creek watershed stakeholders have identified their key concerns in the watershed. Significant concerns include: poor water quality, flooding problems, loss of biodiversity and natural resources, need for watershed education and lack of coordination. The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and the Lake County Board officially adopted the Indian Creek Watershed Plan in fall 2004. **Funding of high priority projects identified in the Indian Creek Watershed Plan will provide a reduction in flood damages and significant environmental enhancement.**

**Background:** The Indian Creek Watershed Implementation Plan was funded using \$40,747 (41%) from Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and \$59,739 (59%) of SMC cash for total budget of \$100,486. In addition to cash contributions, SMC provided significant in-kind services such as project coordination and management, consultant contract administration, stakeholder input coordination and staff input on plan development.

**Congressional Districts:** Districts 8 and 10: Representatives Melissa Bean and Mark Kirk

## **FACT SHEET #5: Bull Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Project**

**Request:** Lake County requests funding to implement high priority environmental (water quality), ecological restoration, and stormwater management projects identified in the Bull Creek/Brook Watershed Management Plan.

**Problem:** Bull Creek/Brook watershed is a 14 square mile subwatershed of the Des Plaines River located in central Lake County that includes 1,316 acres of wetland (431 acres are high quality), 400 acres of lakes and ponds and over 14 miles of stream. Water resource problems include:

- 47% of streambanks have moderate or high erosion
- 60% of stream reaches have moderate to high sediment accumulation
- 27 of 30 stream reaches have problematic debris jams
- There are 36 problematic hydraulic structures and 25 problematic discharge points
- 2 documented flood damage areas and 10 nuisance flooding locations
- 3 of 5 lakes have 40-60% of shoreline eroded

The lakes and streams of the watershed have experienced degraded water quality due to agricultural activity and urbanization. Development pressure is increasing in the watershed - and most significantly, agricultural land on the western edge is planned for industrial development in the future. The Northeastern Illinois Plan Commission (NIPC) forecasts demographic changes for the watershed that are likely to further degrade watershed resources and worsen flood damage. Based on NIPC's forecast, the watershed will experience an estimated 16% increase in population, a 22% increase in households, and a 90% increase in employment between the years 2000 and 2030. New development has the potential to exacerbate flooding, degrade water quality and negatively impact natural resources.

**Proposed Solution:** The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) in conjunction with a watershed planning committee is finalizing a watershed plan for the Bull Creek/Brook watershed. The draft watershed management plan includes:

- 4) An accurate identification of floodplain boundaries and a water quality and natural resource assessment;
- 5) A locally supported action plan that identifies specific structural and non-structural solutions to remedy current problems; and
- 6) Programmatic recommendations to prevent future problems.

Residents, landowners, business owners, conservation organizations and local government officials have regularly participated in planning meetings since May of 2004 to identify problem areas in the watershed, come up with recommended solutions, and to prioritize actions to address them. Watershed stakeholders are addressing degradation of water resources, flood damage, and habitat loss as urbanization continues. The Bull Creek/Brook Watershed Plan will be presented to the SMC and the Lake County Board for official public review and adoption in 2006. **Funding of high priority projects identified in the Bull Creek/Brook Watershed Management Plan will provide protection and restoration of the natural drainage system (streams, floodplains and wetlands), improved water quality, and will prevent/reduce flood damage in the watershed and downstream along the Des Plaines River.**

**Background:** The Bull Creek/Brook Watershed Plan was funded by a combination of sources: \$39,000 cash plus over \$40,000 of in-kind staff support is being provided by SMC; \$103,000 was allocated from the USEPA in EPM funding; \$128,000 was provided to the USACE through WRDA for hydrology and hydraulics modeling; and \$11,000 is being provided by IEPA in Section 319 funding for a "watershed-based plan" upgrade. To date, approximately \$228,000 in cash has been spent on this planning effort.

**Congressional Districts:** Districts 8 and 10: Representatives Melissa Bean and Mark Kirk

## **FACT SHEET #6: Newport Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Project**

**Request:** Lake County requests funding to implement high priority environmental, ecological restoration, and stormwater management projects identified in the Newport Creek Watershed Management Plan.

**Problem:** Approximately 90 buildings and 5 roads or bridges are threatened by repeated flooding. Newport Creek has experienced degraded water quality due to agricultural activity and urbanization. Development pressure is increasing in the Newport Creek watershed. The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission projects a 300.4% increase in population in the watershed from 2000 to 2030, a 303.1% increase in households, and a 728.4% increase in employment. This new development has the potential to exacerbate the current flooding, water quality and other problems in the watershed while also negatively impacting natural resources.

**Proposed Solution:** The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) is nearing completion of a watershed plan for the Newport Creek watershed. The watershed plan will include:

- 4) An accurate identification of floodplain boundaries and a water quality and natural resource assessment;
- 5) A locally supported action plan that identifies specific structural and non-structural solutions to remedy current problems; and
- 6) Programmatic recommendations to prevent future problems.

Residents, landowners, business owners, and local governmental officials have participated in planning meetings to identify problem areas in the watershed and will be prioritizing potential projects to address them.

The Newport Creek watershed stakeholders are addressing options to remedy current problems and prevent future flood damage, degradation of water resources and habitat as urbanization continues. Funding of high priority projects identified in the Newport Creek Watershed Management Plan will provide a reduction in flood damages, improvement of the water quality, and protection and enhancement of natural resources.

**Background:** The Newport Creek Watershed Plan was funded by a diverse funding package assembled by SMC. The USEPA provided \$60,000 towards the watershed plan through its Environmental Programs & Management (EPM) Division. The floodplain study portion of the watershed plan was funded with \$72,000 from the SMC as part of the Upper Des Plaines River Feasibility Study Phase II being led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with SMC as one of four local partners. In addition to cash contributions, SMC has provided significant in-kind services such as project coordination and management, consultant contract administration, stakeholder input coordination and staff input on plan development.

**Congressional District:** District 8: Representative Melissa Bean



## **FACT SHEET #7: Upper Des Plaines River Watershed Plan Implementation Project**

**Request:** Lake County requests funding to implement high priority environmental, ecological restoration, and stormwater management projects identified in the Upper Des Plaines River Phase II Watershed Plan.

**Problem:** The communities along the Des Plaines River have suffered considerable flood damage in the past. Flood damages currently average \$25 million a year along the upper reaches of the Des Plaines River, excluding the tributaries. Severe flooding in 1986 and 1987 caused over \$100 million in damages. These damage amounts do not include the considerable environmental damages occurring, tributary damages and the economic activity disruption damages. Also, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has projected a 26% increase in the average annual flood damages, just along the river, by the year 2010. In addition, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission projects a 29.6% increase in population in the watershed from 2000 to 2030, a 35.0% increase in households, and a 42.5% increase in employment. This new development has the potential to exacerbate the current flooding, water quality and other problems in the watershed while also negatively impacting natural resources.

In response to the documented flood damages, the Corps of Engineers developed a Phase 1 flood control plan that focuses on 6 structural flood control projects. While Phase 1 will eliminate 25% of the identified existing damages along the river, there is a need for a follow-up flood control and environmental restoration project for the entire Upper Des Plaines River watershed, including the tributaries. The Corps and local partners, including SMC, are now in the midst of the Phase 2 study and plan to reduce existing flood damage and prevent increases in future damages while protecting and restoring the environmental integrity and beneficial uses of the river and its tributaries.

**Proposed Solution:** The Upper Des Plaines River watershed plan will include:

- 7) An accurate identification of floodplain boundaries in several of the tributary subwatersheds and a water quality and natural resource assessment;
- 8) A locally supported action plan that identifies specific structural and non-structural solutions to remedy current problems; and
- 9) Programmatic recommendations to prevent future problems.

Furthermore, local governmental officials and stakeholders have participated in planning meetings to identify problem areas in the watershed and will be prioritizing potential projects to address them. The Upper Des Plaines River watershed stakeholders are addressing options to remedy current problems and prevent future flood damage, degradation of water resources and habitat as urbanization continues. Funding of high priority projects identified in the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed Management Plan will provide a reduction in flood damages, improvement of the water quality, and protection and enhancement of natural resources.

**Background:** The federal government provided \$3.7 million for Phase 1 planning. The cost of the Phase 2 study is approximately \$10 million. One-half of this amount (\$5 million) is being provided by the federal government. The remaining costs are being split between state and local agencies through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Cook County, Lake County SMC, and Kenosha County.

**Congressional District:** Districts 8 and 10: Representatives Melissa Bean and Mark Kirk.